

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 NSA-01

CIAE-00 INR-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /053 W

----- 094058

R 131611Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8138

AMEMBASSY BONN

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 15829

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, IT

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF RIGHT-WING PLOTS WIDENS

REF: ROME 15158, 14858, 14220 (ALL NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. ARREST ON OCTOBER 31 OF FORMER SID CHIEF MICELI HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY SNOWBALLING CAMPAIGN LED BY EAGER YOUNG JUDGES TO FERRET OUT RIGHT-WING ELEMENTS SUSPECTED OF PAST OR PRESENT COUP PLOTTING. AMONG THOSE RECENTLY PUT UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR QUOTE POLITICAL CONSPIRACY UNQUOTE IS CONSERVATIVE POLITICIAN AND HEAD OF QUOTE NEW REPUBLIC UNQUOTE MOVEMENT, RANDOLFO PACCIARDI. JUDICIAL ACTIONS AND ATTENDANT SENSATIONAL PUBLICITY ARE POISONING POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE AND DAMAGING MORALE OF MILITARY AND SECURITY SERVICES. CAMPAIGN TIES IN WITH LEFT-WING EFFORTS TO DISCREDIT CENTER-RIGHT ELEMENTS IN PSDI AND DC, AND WITH CHARGES OF US INTERFERENCE IN ITALIAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARREST ON OCTOBER 31 OF FORMER SID CHIEF MICELI ON ORDER OF PADUA JUDGE, INVESTIGATIONS OF RIGHT-WING PLOTTING HAVE SNOWBALLED. MAJOR INVESTIGATIONS ARE UNDERWAY IN ROME, PADUA, MILAN, BOLOGNA AND TURIN, AND THERE IS INCREASING JURISDICTIONAL RIVALRY AMONG THE MAGISTRATES CONCERNED. NEWS REPORTS INDICATE THAT OVER 100 ARREST WARRANTS AND OVER 300 NOTIFICATIONS OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION ("AVVISI DI REATO") HAVE BEEN ISSUED IN RECENT WEEKS. THESE FIGURES ARE INFLATED, HOWEVER, AS THE SAME

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PERSON MAY BE UNDER INVESTIGATION BY MORE THAN ONE JUDGE.

3. UNDER 1969 ITALIAN LAW, THE QUOTE AVVISO DI REATO UNQUOTE MUST BE ISSUED WHEN A PERSON IS SUSPECTED OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITY AND A JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION IS OPENED CONCERNING HIM. DEPENDING UPON THE RESULT OF THIS INVESTIGATION, THE SUSPECT MAY BE CALLED FOR INTERROGATION BY THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE. IF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT, THE JUDGE MAY DECIDE FORMALLY TO CHARGE THE SUSPECT, WHO THEN BECOMES AN QUOTE IMPUTATO DI REATO UNQUOTE AND, ACCORDING TO THE GRAVITY OF THE CRIME, MAY ULTIMATELY BE ARRESTED. MANY RECIPIENTS OF AN QUOTE AVVISO DI REATO UNQUOTE NEVER REACH THE INTERROGATION STAGE. HOWEVER, THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION OF RIGHT-WING PLOTS HAS PRODUCED A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF INTERROGATIONS AND ARREST WARRANTS AGAINST THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED JUDICIAL NOTIFICATIONS.

4. ON NOVEMBER 9 A ROME JUDGE ISSUED NOTIFICATIONS OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION FOR QUOTE POLITICAL CONSPIRACY UNQUOTE TO 28 INDIVIDUALS IN CONNECTION WITH SUSPECTED COUP PLOTS DEVELOPED FROM 1971 TO THE PRESENT. AMONG THOSE INVOLVED ARE FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER AND LATER PRESIDENT OF THE RIGHT-WING QUOTE NEW REPUBLIC UNQUOTE MOVEMENT RANDOLFO PACCIARDI, LIBERAL PARTY RIGHT-WING EXPONENT EDGARDO SOGNO AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LAZIO REGIONAL COUNCILLOR RILIPPO DE JORIO. PACCIARDI AND DE JORIO HAVE HEATEDLY DENIED ANY WRONGDOING. NOVEMBER 12 PAPERS REPORT TELEGRAM OF SOLIDARITY FROM FRANZ JOSEPH STRAUSS TO PACCIARDI STATING THAT PACCIARDI IS THE QUOTE VICTIM OF THE LAST TAIL THRASHINGS OF A REGIME IN DEATH AGONY UNQUOTE. SOGNO IS ALREADY UNDER INVESTIGATION BY A ETURIN JUDGE AND IS IN DANGER OF EXPULSION FROM PLI FOR HIS OPENLY EXPRESSED RIGHT-WING VIEWS.

5. WAVE OF ARRESTS, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND SENSATIONAL PUBLICITY CONCERNING RIGHT-WING COUP PLOTTING ARE POISONING POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE AND ADDING TO GRAVITY OF GOVERNMENT CRISIS. EMBASSY CONTACTS HAVE EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN AT DAMAGE MICELI AFFAIR AND RELATED INVESTIGATIONS ARE DOING TO MORALE OF MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES. A NUMBER OF SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED PERPLEZITY AND BITTERNESS AT ROLE PLAYED BY DEFENSE MINISTER ANDREOTTI, WHOSE RELEASE OF SID DOSSIER HELPED SPARK CURRENT FUROR.

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6. EMBASSY HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT ONGOING WITCH HUNT (WHICH MAY INVOLVE A FEW BONA FIDE WITCHES) IS BEING FOSTERED AS WELL AS USED TO ADVANTAGE BY THE LEFT. THE ANTI-FASCIST CAMPAIGN IS BEING CARRIED FORWARD BY EAGER YOUNG JUDGES, SOME OF WHOM HAVE LEAKED DRAMATIC DETAILS OF THEIR INVESTIGATIONS TO THE PRESS. THESE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGSTIE IN NEATLY WITH VITRIOLIC CAMPAIGN IN PCI, SOCIALIST AND LEFT-WING DC CONTROLLED PUBLICATIONS ATTACKING SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, DC CENTER-

RIGHT LEADERS LIKE FANFANI AND PICCOLI, AND US (FOR ALLEGED INTERFERENCE IN ITALIAN AFFAIRS). FACT THAT DEFENSE MINISTER TANASSI HAS BEEN ASKED TESTIFY IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRINCE BORGHESE 1970 COUP PLOT IS PLAYED UP BY LEFTIST PRESS AS INDICATIVE OF SINISTER DOINGS BY PSDI LEADER. THIS CONTINUING CAMPAIGN APPEARS TO BE AIMED AT DEMORALIZING AND ISOLATING THE CENTER-RIGHT FORCES BY LUMPING THEM TOGETHER WITH THE ALREADY DISCREDITED MSI AND EXTRAPARLIAMENTARY RIGHT. OVERALL GOAL OF CAMPAIGN APPEARS TO BE LEFTWARD SHIFT IN POLITICAL BALANCE. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CORRUPTION, ARRESTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME15829
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740327-0840
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741147/aaaabnox.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ROME 15158, 14858, 14220 (ALL NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INVESTIGATION OF RIGHT-WING PLOTS WIDENS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005